



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Western District of Tennessee*

*800 Federal Building
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103*

*Telephone 901.544.4231
Fax 901.544.4230
TTY 901.544.3054*

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
CONTACT: Leigh Anne Jordon
(901) 544-4231

TWO SENTENCED FOR KIDNAPING OF BELLS POSTMASTER

Jackson, TN- Terrell L. Harris, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee announces the sentencing of Johnathan Johnson and Richard Cole, III for their roles in the May 1, 2001 abduction and assault of the Postmaster in Bells, Tennessee. The two defendants plead guilty to Counts 2, 4, and 6 of the indictment for kidnaping and assaulting a postal employee as well as brandishing a firearm during the crime.

Johnson was sentenced to 489 months in prison and five years supervised release. During sentencing, Judge James D. Todd stated that he was going to give as much relief to the citizens of West Tennessee as possible and sentence Defendant Johnson to the maximum under the guidelines. Cole was sentenced to 319 months in prison and 5 years supervised release. Both defendants were ordered to pay \$7054.40 total restitution to the victim.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service, Crockett County Sheriff's Department, Bells Police Department, and the 28th Judicial District Attorney General's Office. Assistant United States Attorneys Leigh Grinalds, Len Register and Tammi Simpson handled the case for the government.

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